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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE UAB RESEARCH FOUNDATION [US/US]; The Office of Intellectual property Management, 1120-G Administration Building, 701 South 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35202 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ENGLER, Jeffrey [US/US]; MCLM 460, 1530 3rd Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35294-0005 (US). ESCUYER, Vincent [US/US]; MCML 460, 1530 3rd Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35294-0005 (US).

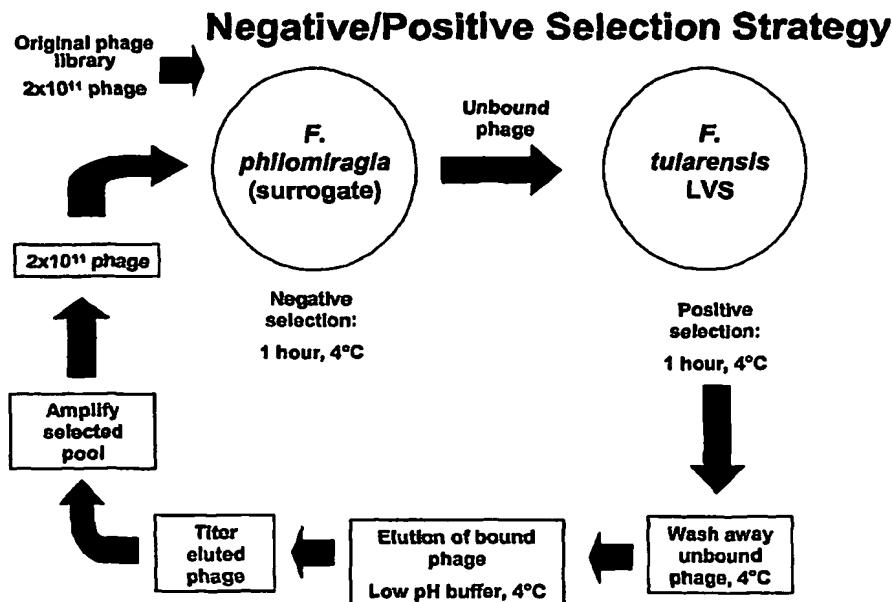
(74) Agent: PETERSON, Thomas; Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP, 1819 Fifth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35204-2104 (US).

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(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION OF REAGENTS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND STUDY OF FRANCISELLA



(57) Abstract: Novel reagents capable of identifying, or aiding in the identification of, *Francisella* strains, such as, but not limited to, those identified in playing a role in human diseases or those identified as capable of being used as a biological weapon, are disclosed. In addition, methods for the identification and isolation of the reagents are disclosed. In one embodiment the reagents are peptide sequences. The reagents may be used in diagnostic assays and kits to diagnose the presence of such *Francisella* strains. In addition the agents identified may be used as research tools for the study and characterization of such *Francisella* strains.

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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GI, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, L, C, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PII, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SI, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GI, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE,*
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